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SILENT SPRING

It's official: W'falls were arborcidal maniacs



Signs of spring are everywhere — except at the River Cafe in DUMBO, where many trees look dead — victim's of last year's arborcidal "Waterfalls" art project (last year, above and a current view, right).



By Aisha Gawad
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Weeping Birches at the River Cafe have a reason for real tears this spring — even as other trees are already sporting buds, many of the famed eatery's branches remain lifeless, a lingering wound from Olafur Eliasson's arborcidal artwork, "New York City Waterfalls."

"It doesn't look good," said Maureen Andarjese, head of flowers and gardens at the restaurant, as he showed off several dry, brown trees in what is usually a verdant Eden surrounding the waterfront eatery under the Brooklyn Bridge.

It is the restaurant's very proximity to the fabled span that is causing the lingering problems.

One of the four salt-water-spewing behemoths from Eliasson's public arts project was situated directly under the Brooklyn side of the bridge. And on most days over the course of the three-month, \$15-million public art project, a brackish mist lashed the River Cafe's beloved trees.

All summer long, trees not only at the restaurant, but also near other Eliasson "waterfalls" along the Brooklyn Heights Promenade and on Governors Island, showed severe damage.

When the project's taps were finally tightened, tree experts hoped that the foliage would bounce back. But it has been a silent spring, so far, at the River Cafe.

"Just look at these three weeping birches — there's no sign of life at all," said General Manager

See TREES on page 6



Hello, Metrotech!

The Brooklyn Paper made its move from DUMBO to the Metrotech office complex in Downtown Brooklyn on Monday — and the neighbors were busting out all over the place to make us feel welcome! At Kevin Barry's pub on Willoughby Street, bartender Bridgette told us about a nifty lunch special (hint: it involves beer). For a full report about our move, see page 2. And for our exclusive guide to the Metrotech area, see GO Brooklyn, page 7.

Steve steps aside

Amid scandal, DiBrienza drops Council bid

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Former City Councilman Steve DiBrienza has reportedly abandoned his controversial and scandal-ridden campaign for his old seat.

"I have finished my exploration of another run for the Council... and decided against it," DiBrienza told the Park Slope Courier, our sister publication.

DiBrienza has not spoken to The Brooklyn Paper since this news-

per reported that a non-profit group controlled by the former councilman had received close to \$1.2 million in taxpayer money since 2002 — the vast majority of the money was spent on salaries to DiBrienza and other staffers.

DiBrienza had told The Paper that his group sponsored soccer, basketball and softball teams at three Catholic schools in Windsor Terrace and Park Slope.

But a sports director at one of the schools said he hadn't heard of the Neighborhood Assistance

Corporation or seen DiBrienza in years.

"I know all the sponsors," said the athletic director. "DiBrienza has helped us in the past, but I couldn't tell you the last time."

Neighborhood activists also said they have barely heard of DiBrienza's group or seen it in action.

"I respect the work he did when he was a councilmember, but to be honest, I haven't seen him around the community in eight years," said

See SCANDAL on page 6

SHELL GAME

City offers millions of clams for Sitt's Coney Island oasis

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Joe Sitt is poised to cash in.

A day before the City Council takes up Mayor Bloomberg's rezoning plan for a new Coney Island theme park, the city on Wednesday made its first formal offer to buy out the amusement area's largest landowner for \$105 million — roughly \$12 million more than the developer reportedly paid for the land that he began amassing just five years ago.

That's a nice payday when the economy is in a Cyclone-like free-fall, real-estate experts said.

"You can't beat a rate of return like that," said one consultant who does business with another Coney Island landowner.

Sitt's lawyer, Jesse Masry, disagreed, saying that his client's costs include not only the price of the land, but taxes and

demolition expenditures.

"Our [costs are] north of \$130 million," he told the New York Times this week.

A spokesman for Sitt declined to comment further.

The city needs Sitt's 10-1/2 acres along the Boardwalk before it can move ahead with the mayor's dream of a year-round tourist destination featuring a new city-owned amusement park alongside privately built attractions in the faded and faded People's Playground.

Sitt, whose extensive holdings include many of the Boardwalk storefronts and the site of the defunct Astorland theme park on Surf Avenue, snubbed the city's prior verbal offer of \$110 million last fall, holding out for a rezoning of his own site to build a \$1.5-billion Xanadu casino, hotels and shopping.

Last fall, Sitt reportedly wanted more than \$200 million for his land.



'Tini' tiny tots

Tini Wine Bar packed up and moved a few blocks north on Van Brunt Street on Sunday in a glorious relocation parade manned by volunteers — including Benjamin Kanzer, Harry Sanders, Ellie Sanders and Odette Golden-LaMore.

City: It's a wrap

Film permit halt in South Williamsburg

By Ben Muessegger
The Brooklyn Paper

South Williamsburg is no longer a Hollywood backlot.

That's the message sent by city officials this week when they gave the neighborhood a three-month reprieve from film and television shoots — a rewrite sought by a handful of residents who say that production crews have turned their community into a soundstage.

The city told film crews to "take five" because the neighborhood bounded by Kent and

Bedford avenues, and South Second and South Eighth streets

has hosted a large number of recent shoots, including "Gossip Girl," "The Unusuals," and "Law and Order."

The neighborhood also played a major role in last year's action film, "American Gangster."

"Based upon those factors, we will temporarily restrict filming in certain areas that have been significantly impacted," said Marybeth Ilse, a spokeswoman for the may-

or's office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting.

Indeed, it's hardly the first time that film crews have gotten bad reviews in Brooklyn — and it isn't the first time that the city has issued a movie-making moratorium. Two years ago, Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO were temporarily deemed no-film zones.

Several projects that had already begun filming in the neighborhood will be allowed to finish over the next

See FILM on page 13

A BAM plan is canned

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A major mixed-income apartment tower planned for the BAM Cultural District is off the table due to the convulsions of the real-estate market. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

The 187-unit tower, which would contain 100 sub-market-rate rentals, was planned for the corner of Fulton Street and Ashland Place, but will not happen anytime soon — the latest troubles inside the Fort Greene enclave targeted to become the so-called Lincoln Center of Brooklyn.

"This is our most difficult project," said Kate Dixon, director of planning and development for the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental group overseeing development in the area.

"The mixed-use developments are feeling the most from the current economic situation," she said during a panel discussion on Monday night.

The city Department of Housing Preservation and Development confirmed that this joint construction effort with Studio MDA and the Gotham Group is on hold due to a "shaky market," said a department spokesman.

The centerpiece to the whole artsy area is also off track. Suchitree Enrique Norton's design for a glass-walled complex, adjacent to a grand public plaza is on a back-burner because the Brooklyn Public Library, which planned an iconic performing arts library for the building, backed out of the \$135-million project last year.

And the public plaza itself can't be built until Norton's building goes up because a parking lot, which is part of the Norton plan, would sit below it.

The renovations of the Strand Theater are also slightly behind schedule. The city-owned building was scheduled to be complete in 2010, but now, according to architect Thomas Leeser, construction will only begin this fall and take up to two years to finish.



SLATED TO END: The city has yelled, "CUT!" to film production in Williamsburg for the next three months because of the neighborhood's overexposure.

Billionaire Bloomy begs Brooklyn for ballot boosters

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Mike Bloomberg wants YOU — to volunteer for his race for a third term.

To make it easier, the billionaire mayor opened campaign offices in all five boroughs last weekend, christening his cramped Brooklyn space on Atlantic Avenue on Sunday.

Hizoner chatted with fans in front of the storefront, which is between Third and Fourth avenues, before heading inside to ship up campaign workers with a speech that stuck to his achievements in office.

Outside, he met Boerum Hill resident David Burney and his border terrier, Munge, who had a "Mike Bloomberg NYC" sticker on her head.

"She loves Bloomberg," Burney said. "She was very happy that term limits were changed."

Burney, of course, has one good reason to like the mayor: the mayor is his boss (Burney is head of the Department of Design and Construction — though he didn't say that to a reporter).

The mayor's retail office is nearby

equidistant from the administration's two main Brooklyn obsessions: Atlantic Yards (which it hopes will get built) and the Brooklyn House of Detention (which it hopes to reopen and double in capacity).

A campaign spokeswoman said the location was picked solely because it was centrally located and near major transit routes.

"We want the volunteers to be able

to get here easily," said the spokeswoman, Silvia Alvarez.

As in the past, Bloomberg has said he will not accept campaign donations, but is welcoming volunteers to donate their time.

Bloomberg for Mayor campaign office, 635 Atlantic Ave., between Third and Fourth avenues in Boerum Hill.



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Multi-millionaire Jane Valentas, in whose building the latest bike had been stolen, offered me lunch (though not a bike), Larry Lombardi

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Brooklyn Paper joins sister publications at Metrotech

The Brooklyn Paper

All it took was the ceremonial severing of a bright red ribbon by Borough President Markowitz and it was official: The Brooklyn Paper was welcomed into its new offices at the Metrotech complex in Downtown.

ident Les Goodstein (pictured) did the honors last Friday, along with a panoply of dignitaries, including state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (who praised us for keeping jobs in Brooklyn—as if a newspaper called The “Brooklyn” Paper really had a choice!). So now we're happily en-

ounced in Metrotech with our colleagues in the News Corporation-owned Community Newspaper Group, which comprises more than 30 newspapers, periodicals and specialty magazines, including Courier Life Publications, Times-Edge News-papers and Bronx Times Reporter.

Kuntzman's angel

Anonymous Brooklyn Paper fan gives editor a new (used) bike!

On the road again! Hours after news of my stolen bike hit the Interweb on BrooklynPaper.com last week, your faithful, bike-riding columnist (that's me, silly, not the late Murray Kempton) got an intriguing e-mail from an anonymous fan of The Brooklyn Paper.

"You'll find a present locked in front of room 633 at 55 Washington St.," the e-mail said. "The lock's key is attached to a sticker attached to your pedal."

Like any newsbender, I was eager to solve this mystery, so I headed to my old office building and, sure enough, discovered an almost new Trek 7100 chained to a building pillar.

The key, as promised, was concealed under a sticker. On the sticker was a picture of me from last week's paper, looking somber and annoyed about my stolen bike (nice touch).

I took the Trek out for a spin and being back in the saddle again brought back memories — memories of me darning from one big breaking news story (freedom for the famed stop drinker, for example) to the next (Ayns, the masterbating walrus).

But now, of course, I wanted to solve the mystery. Who put me back on two wheels?

This wasn't going to be easy, after all, everyone in Brooklyn was moved to action by the story about loss of my bike — my second pilfered set of wheels in eight months. Not since I broke my ankle last year has Brooklyn been so riveted by yet another one of my highly public tragedies.

Multi-millionaire Jane Valentas, in whose building the latest bike had been stolen, offered me lunch (though not a bike), Larry Lombardi

at Front Street Pizza gave me a free plate of lasagna and re-galed me with a story (not quite helpful, alas) of the time his bike was stolen. My sometimes fellow travelers from Transportation Alternatives emphasized by reminding me that 60,000 bikes are stolen every year.

And the MTA responded to my plight by raising fares to \$2.50!

Finally, a lead: Someone at Transportation Alternatives forwarded me an e-mail saying that if I intended to write something about the new bike, I should report that it came from "a friend of Susan Feldman of St. Ann's Warehouse, and leave it at that."

Intuiting: I barely even know Susan Feldman (though St. Ann's does a great job with the art thing). Still perplexed, I e-mailed my Transportation Alternatives contact again, this time receiving a deeper answer.

"Let Gersh know that his sometimes being nice to others creates for unexpected paybacks out of the blue," the new e-mail said. "Tell him just to keep up his unbridled and energetic news coverage and to just enjoy the bicycle. People are watching his back."

"Unstated love endures," it concluded. "He will be happier not knowing the source."

Wow, suddenly my stolen bike story had turned into a Mitch Albom tear-jerker (and not the good one about Morrie).

But my philosophical, bike-donating correspondent was right: I am happier not knowing the source.

I don't even have to send a "thank you" card!

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE
By Gersh Kuntzman

Read The Brooklyn Angle every week in The Brooklyn Paper. E-mail Kuntzman at gkuntzman@cnlocal.com



A vague e-mail sent our editor to his old DUMBO office building, where he was told he would find a used bike. He did.

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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

BOERUM HILL

'House of D'-vied

It's Thompson vs. Bloomy over Atlantic Avenue jail

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg's contentious plan to reopen and expand the Brooklyn House of Detention suffered another setback on Monday when city Comptroller Bill Thompson blocked the project, citing a "corruptive" bidding process in awarding a \$31.3-million contract.

"[The city] looked like it favored one bidder over many others," Thompson said about the Bloomberg Administration's "corruptive process" that led to the selection of the architecture firm Ricci Greene Associates to design a restoration and enlargement for the House of D.

The comptroller, who is running against the mayor this fall for the city's top job, said he dismissed the deal because:

- The city inadequately explained why the entire project's price tag jumped from \$240 million to \$450 million.
- The firm did not meet the city's experience requirements, even as other bidders that did were excluded.
- Ricci Greene was sued for malpractice by update Dev-



Comptroller Bill Thompson, a critic of the city's plan to reopen the Brooklyn House of Detention, spoke to reporters outside the jail on Monday.

ange County for problems at a jail there.

The comptroller's dismissal comes less than two weeks after a state judge ruled the city can fill the existing 759-bed jail at any time — though plans to roughly double the prison's capacity must undergo environmental review.

Officials from the Department of Design and Construction lashed back at Thompson's reasoning for canceling the contract, which was originally pegged on rough estimates of the eventual cost to build a second tower for the site that closed in 2005.

"As the comptroller well knows, agencies routinely use

budget placeholders until they can bring in design services to get a more accurate estimate," said Matthew Monahan, an agency.

He added that the bidding process was open to qualified bidders, and that the lawsuit against Ricci Greene involved a "minor" water pipe break.

PARK SLOPE

Business 'cycle' in Slope

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The wheels are in motion for a new bicycle shop to open in Park Slope this spring. The Brooklyn Paper has learned that Brooklyn Bicycles will open at the corner of Ninth Street and Sixth Avenue in May, offering yet another cycling store for residents of a neighborhood that city records suggest has the second-highest number of bike commuters in the borough.

Co-owner Tony Gallucci promises to put service first.

"From what I've seen in Brooklyn, a lot of rude and pretty obnoxious people work in bike shops," said Gallucci, who has years of experience at cycling stores in Manhattan. "We want to open a place with more friendliness."

The new shop, which will take over the 1,400-square-foot space that formerly housed a Curves gym, will carry a wide range of men's and women's commuter cycles, sport hybrids and road bikes that cost less than \$2,500, according to co-founder — and Prospect Heights resident — Henry Carter.

Brooklyn Bicycles won't be the first retailer in the neighborhood, but Carter claims he'll reach a distinctive niche of recreational Prospect Park riders.



Henry Carter will open a bike store at the corner of Ninth Street and Sixth Avenue in Park Slope.

bike commuters, and beginning cyclists groups he says are under-served by neighborhood bicycle stores.

"There are definitely other bike shops around, but there's no place that fits the needs of most cyclists," Carter said.

Not surprisingly, some Park Slope bike shop employees disagreed, and cautioned the entrepreneurs behind Brooklyn Bicycles that running a cycling shop can be harder than winning a stage in the Tour de France.

"It's easy to open up a shop," said Al Calabro, a salesmen at R and A Cycles on Fifth Avenue. "But to stay open is very difficult."

A daytime call to On the Move — the tiny Seventh Avenue bike shop closest to the planned Brooklyn Bicycles location — was picked up only by a recording device. The shop, which keeps limited hours, did not return the call.

Rivalries aside, the new shop could result in better selection for Park Slope shoppers, said Chris Dixon, of Dixon's Bike Shop on Union Street.

"You'll be able to get more stuff in the neighborhood instead of going online, so it's a good thing for Park Slope at the end of the day," he said. "If everybody has a little niche, we're not against them."

WILLIAMSBURG

Pool parties are back!

But not at McCarren Park Pool

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

North Brooklyn's famed McCarren Park Pool Parties — which music lovers feared would come to after getting booted from McCarren Park Pool last year — appear ready to dive on into East River State Park on the Williamsburg waterfront, the promoter told The Brooklyn Paper.

"That would be a good place [for concerts]," said Chris Goldstein of Jellicoe NYC, which filled the defunct Greenpoint swimming pool with concerts by TV on the Radio, Aesop Rock, Yo La Tengo and others for three summers. "We haven't set anything in stone yet, but we're working on it."



Summer-time concerts at McCarren Park Pool were always hot.

A state official echoed Goldstein's sentiments.

"We are indeed working towards that end," said Eileen Larrabee, a state parks spokeswoman.

North Brooklyn's Open Space Alliance is also involved in the negotiations to allow the concerts in the riverside park.

The popular Pool Parties were forced out last August to allow renovations to return the 73-year-old structure to a swimmer's paradise.

So it comes as no surprise that news of the possible move — which was first reported by The Greenpoint Gazette — quickly resonated around North Brooklyn's music community.

"It's great that we have free concerts going on — it's an important part of this community," said Adam Krinsky, a salesperson at the Northside record store Sound Fix.

BAY RIDGE

There's definitely a 'market'

Fresh produce paradise to stay at ex-Key Food lot

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Bay Ridge's popular farmer's market will remain at the former Key Food parking lot on Third Avenue — even after a Walgreens pharmacy opens at the site this summer. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

Discussions are ongoing between Walgreens and the farmer's market, but the bazaar will likely run on Saturdays through December and feature five or more vendors — just like last year's souk.

Walgreens spokesman Robert Elfinger said that the farmer's market — which last year included vendors who hawked fruits, vegetables, flowers, bread, honey, and buffalo meat — could benefit the pharmacy.

"From a business standpoint, we think it creates some good synergy," he said. "People can come to the parking lot to get their produce, then they can come to the store and get their everyday essentials and get their prescriptions filled."

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Gang attacks woman

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A gang of 30 Crips from the Freedom Academy HS on Nassau Street severely assaulted a girl as she was walking to the subway after school on March 26, police said.

The victim and her friends told cops that a blue-colored, rag-wearing crowd followed them to the corner of Bond and Nevins streets, at 2:30 pm when a man approached her from behind, brandishing a black handgun. The thug pushed her into the house and, at gunpoint, ordered her to lie on the ground.

The burglar proceeded to ransack the place, stealing an iPod, a BlackBerry, a jewelry box, a license, two credit cards, and \$20.

Let's fight

Two girls mugged two other girls as they were walking down Adams Street on March 25.

The two victims were at the corner of Adams and Joralemon streets at 3:15 pm, they told cops, when one of the thugs approached them and said, "I wanna fight you."

The mugger then punched the girl in the face, grabbed her Siskelick, and ran off.

— **Eván Gardner**

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Midnight man

A sleeping man awoke just after the witching hour on March 22 to find a man burglarizing his West Ninth Street duplex, proving there's no rest for the wicked or the weary.

The noisy criminal jarred the man, 34, at 12:05 am with ruckus from the basement floor of the duplex between Smith and Court streets. The homeowner ran from his bedroom to see the thief bounding up a spiral staircase and out the front door with his laptop and watch.

Great escape

A burglar quickly plucked a few hot commodities from a woman's President Street home while she was there on March 23.

The invader apparently invaded the home, which is between Smith and Court streets, via the fire escape, at around 10:15 am. The victim, who recovered the iPod from the dazed mugger.

Police soon showed up and the 18-year-old attacker was arrested.

Gun invasion

A thug robbed a woman at gunpoint as she was trying to enter her Dean Street building on March 27.

The victim told cops that she was approaching her building, located between Bond and Nevins streets, at 2:30 pm when a man approached her from behind, brandishing a black handgun. The thug pushed her into the house and, at gunpoint, ordered her to lie on the ground.

The burglar proceeded to ransack the place, stealing an iPod, a BlackBerry, a jewelry box, a license, two credit cards, and \$20.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

Crime vehicle

At least three cars were broken into or stolen last week.

A man's wallet was taken from his car, which was being repaired at a body shop on 14th Street between Third and Fourth avenues. When he went to go pick up his car on March 24 at 2 pm, he noticed his stuff was gone. He later discovered even worse news: \$800 had been spent with his debit card.

A thug smashed his way into a Lexus that had been parked on Seventh Street overnight on March 26. The victim left his car between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, where a thief broke through a window to take the airbags, a navigation system, a cell phone charger, and \$10 in quarters.

A crook stole a 2002 Honda Odyssey from Fifth Avenue on March 25. The victim reported that he left the car parked and unlocked with the key in the ignition and the engine on, which might have been a mistake — One minute later, it was gone.

No steal

A thug smashed his way through the front door of a President Street apartment on March 27 — yet took nothing.

The victim left her apartment, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 5 pm and returned six hours later to find that a thug had kicked in the door.

She estimated that it would cost her \$250 to fix it.

— **Emilia Brock**

50TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Masked mugs

Armed robbers in Williamsburg are using masks to hide their faces while they stick up their victims. Here are the horrifying details:

A gun-toting thug in a ski mask snuck up a 25-year-old woman on South Fourth Street on March 22.

The villain confronted the victim at around 11:30 pm on the block between Bedford and Frigis avenues and yelled, "Don't f---ing look at me. I have a f---ing gun! Give me your money."

The victim fished over her See **BLOTTER** on page 16

A man from the same building also reported that the crook broke in through the window while he was gone between 8 am and 4:45 pm. This time, the perp got not one, but two Apple laptops and a Sony Playstation.

Delivered!

Two men were arrested for attempting to rob apartment along Eighth Avenue on March 23.

Cops said that the suspected thieves were casing several buildings around 1:30 pm and, when they exited an apartment building between First and Second streets, police questioned the devious duo.

The two perps claimed that they were delivery boys, but one tenant said they had, in fact, tried to enter his apartment by jamming something in the door lock.

Natural steal

A crook stole a bike from a tree it had been chained to sometime between March 21 and 23.

The victim left his bike — worth \$1,080 with his chain — at the corner of Seventh Avenue and Sterling Place at around 8 am. When he returned to the tree two days later at 10:30 pm, it was gone.

Kodak moment

A handit broke into an Eighth Avenue apartment on March 25, nabbing \$3,150 worth of stuff.

The victim left her apartment, on the corner of Fifth Street, at 8 am — with her window unlocked. This gave the thief a chance to climb the fire escape and sneak into her place. When she returned at 5:30 pm, her laptop, an MP3 player, a camera and printer and \$200 were missing.

An Apple a day

A burglar bashed his way through the windows of two St. Marks Avenue apartments on March 25, sniping \$5,000 worth of stuff.

One victim left her apartment, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, at 8 am to go to work. The thief forced his way in through the window near the fire escape and fled before the victim returned eight hours later. Her Apple laptop and a pair of earrings were gone.

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Schedule of Adult Clinics

Clinic	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
ALLERGY/Allergía	12:00-4:00					
ASTHMA/PULMONARY/Asma/Neumología				1:00-4:00	10:00-1:00	
AUDIOLOGY/Audiología	1:00-4:00		1:00-4:00			
CARDIOLOGY/Cardiología	9:00-4:00	9:00-4:00	9:00-4:00	9:00-4:00	9:00-4:00	
DENTAL/Dentista				8:30-12:00		
DERMATOLOGY/Dermatología				8:30-12:00		
DIABETES/Diabetes				8:30-12:00		
EAR NOSE & THROAT/Oreja, Nariz y Garganta					8:30-12:00	
ENDOCRINOLOGY/Endocrinología		12:30-4:00				
FAMILY MEDICINE/Medicina familiar (Evening Hours Available)	1:00-9:00	1:00-9:00	1:00-9:00	5:00-9:00	1:00-9:00	
GENETIC COUNSELING/Consejo Genético			9:00-1:00			
GERIATRICS/Servicios de Geriatría				12:30-4:00 4th		
GASTROENTEROLOGY/Gastroenterología	2:00-4:00		2:00-4:00			
GYN/OB/Ginecología	8:45-7:00	8:45-3:00	8:45-4:00		8:45-4:00	
HEMATOLOGY/Hematología				9:30-1:00	9:30-1:00	
HEPATITIS C				9:30-1:00	9:30-1:00	
INFECTIOUS DISEASES/Enfermedades infecciosas		9:00-4:00	9:00-12:00		9:00-4:00	
INTERNAL MEDICINE/Medicina Interna	8:30-7:00	8:30-7:00	8:30-7:00	1:30-7:00	8:30-4:00	
NEPHROLOGY/Nefrología	8:30-12:00		10:00-12:00			
NEUROSURGERY/Neurocirugía		9:00-4:00	2nd & 4th			
NUTRITION COUNSELING/Nutrición Consejería	9:30-2:30	9:30-3:00	9:30-3:00		9:30-12:30	
OBSTETRICS/Obstetricia	8:30-7:00	8:30-4:00	8:30-4:00		8:30-4:00	8:30-12:30
OPHTHALMOLOGY/Oftalmología	9:00-3:00		9:00-3:00		9:00-3:00	
ORTHOPEDECS/Ortopedia	8:30-12:30	9:00-12:30			8:45-12:30	
OSTEOPOROSIS/Deterioro de los Huesos			1:00-4:00	9:00-12:00		
PAIN MANAGEMENT/Manejo del dolor	12:30-4:00		1:00-4:00		8:30-12:00	
PHYSIATRY/Rehabilitación física			8:45-12:30		8:30-12:00	
PLASTIC SURGERY/Cirugía Plástica			8:30-12:00		8:30-12:00	8:30-12:00
PODIATRY/Podiatría			1:00-4:00 1st			
RHEUMATOLOGY/Reumatología						
SURGERY/Cirugía	12:45-4:00	12:45-4:00	12:45-4:00	12:45-4:00	12:45-4:00	
UROLOGY/Urología	8:30-12:00	8:45-12:00		9:00-12:00	8:30-12:00	
VASCULAR/Problemas de Vasculares				8:30-12:00		

Schedule of Pediatric Clinics

Clinic	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
ADHD/Trastorno de Déficit de						

BROOKLYN BUILDS

McCullough's view: Don't block 'Great Bridge'

Prize-winning historian seeks halt to Walentas Dock Street project

By Ben Muesig
The Brooklyn Paper

Opponents of controversial DUMBO development pulled out their wild card on Wednesday — a famed historian who not only opposes the proposed 18-story building near the famed Brooklyn Bridge, but went so far as to suggest that the city raze other buildings in DUMBO to make room for a national park celebrating the Gothic landmark.

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer David McCullough, author of "The Great Bridge," visited DUMBO and called out Walentas's Dock Street

project "visual vandalism." "If you start building all of these things around [the Brooklyn Bridge], you are going to wreck it," he declared at the press conference, which included a photo of the writer in front of a view of the bridge that, ironically, would actually not be affected by the proposed project.

The Maine resident — who once lived in Brooklyn Heights — might have surpassed the wishes of even the most adamant Dock Street opponents, when he suggested that instead of erecting the affordable housing, middle school and luxury

condo development, workers should demolish the low-slung St. Ann's Warehouse and center to create more open space around the bridge.

"I would like to take down [this] building ... and turning [it] into a national park," he said.

McCullough's comments came as the City Planning Commission hears in April 22 decision on the project — the latest stop on the project's route through the city's land-use review procedure, which is triggered whenever a landowner wants a change in zoning.



Historian David McCullough spoke against a condo tower near the bridge. Ironically, the view to the bridge in this photo would not be affected by the tower.

In this case, Walentas wants a residential rezoning so he can build the 325-unit building, which includes 65 below-market-rate rentals and a public middle school that even opponents of the project say is needed somewhere in the neighborhood.

Planning Commissioner Amanda Burden called the coming Dock Street vote one of the most difficult rulings she has ever faced.

McCullough's appearance comes on the heels of the revelation that the School Construction Authority held backroom negotiations with Walentas (see sidebar below).

After the Planning Commission votes, the project will move to the City Council, where its prospects are far

from certain. Councilmen David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) oppose it, while Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) likes it.

Community Board 2 and Borough President Markowitz both backed the rezoning, though Markowitz favored a taller and slimmer building to reduce what he believes will be an impact on the bridge.

For their part, backers of the project say they have been encouraged by their negotiations with the city.

"We're focused now on the feedback that we got," said Walentas's attorney Ken Fisher, himself a former Brooklyn Heights councilman, turned lobbyist. "So far, it has been very encouraging."

Foes: Docs prove Walentas's 'Dock' of lies

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The School Construction Authority was not being honest last June when it stated publicly that it did not "identify a need" for a new middle school in Brooklyn Heights or DUMBO at the same time that the agency was negotiating with a developer to build just such a school.

That revelation is the highlight of dozens of pages of just-released documents made public by the SCA after a freedom of information request by opponents of a project by David and Jed Walentas to build an 18-story tower and public middle school on Dock Street near the Brooklyn Bridge.



Renderings of David Walentas's Dock Street proposal show off the building's middle school and street front retail. Critics say the 18-story wing of the building would block views of the Brooklyn Bridge.

"It's always troubling when government agencies, which are accountable to the public, are doing one thing in private yet saying something else in public," said Councilman David Yassky, referring to School Construction Authority executive Elizabeth Bergin's comment last year that the agency saw no need for a middle school. When Bergin made the comment, her agency was, in fact, negotiating with the Walentases' Two Trees Management to build just such a school.

Yassky cited a May 20 letter from Two Trees to the School Construction Authority which provided the development company's "best and final offer for the Dock Street DUMBO middle school."

The letter, signed by Jed Walentas, begins, "We appreciate your continued interest in working with us to develop a new public middle school."

Former City Councilman Ken Fisher, who was hired by Two Trees to help steer the controversial project through the ongoing public approval

process, said that Two Trees' May 20 letter is no smoking gun.

"They said what they said publicly because they were not fully on board with us at that time," he said. "They were still negotiating with us. They wanted us to give them our best offer and then see if we had support for the project. Only after we had done that, they said OK" in late 2008.

The just-released documents — mostly e-mails from School Construction Authority officials to Two Trees, plus interestingly candid internal documents — include plenty of correspondence that bolsters a case made by Dock Street opponents that the School Construction Authority did not fully consider alternative sites for a middle school besides the Walentases' proposal.

The agency has long said that it has fully considered all alternative sites that have been suggested by Yassky, including expanding the current K-5 program at PS 8 on Hicks Street into a K-8 school.

But the documents reveal that the School Construction Authority has only looked at two alternatives: PS 8 and the former police precinct on Poplar Street.

And an internal SCA e-mail dated Dec. 8 casts doubt on the depth of the agency's analysis of a third site. In the e-mail, from Lorraine Grillo to Kenneth Ou, Grillo dismisses Yassky's request that the agency consider a newly discovered alternative at 205 Water St.

"David Yassky referred this guy to me because he has property in Brooklyn on Water Street between Bridge and Jay," the memo

said. "Now I know that if we don't do the Walentas project that we don't really want to do anything else over there, but I think we have to follow up on this just so we can say that the Walentas project is such a good deal."

Again, Fisher dismissed the significance of the Grillo memo.

"There are other documents in the package that they rejected them because they simply were not as good as our proposal," Fisher said.

"It's disappointing that anyone would say that the SCA hadn't considered alternatives. They considered them and rejected them. In the case of the Dec. 9 memo, the SCA knows that any other developer was going to charge them for land and for the core and shell of the school. Two Trees is not charging for either."

"That makes all the other alternatives less attractive to SCA than Two Trees," he said.

Yassky disagreed: "My reading of that memo is that they have no interest in fully considering other alternatives. They have not proven that they have looked seriously enough at Water Street or the PS 8 expansion."

Yassky was reminded that Two Trees says it is offering the school for free — a savings that the SCA has said is equivalent to nearly \$50 million in construction costs.

"Two Trees is paying for the core and shell of the school," Yassky said. "The SCA still has \$43 million in its budget for a school. All I'm saying is that if they put out a request for proposals, they might find a developer willing to do it for even less than Walentas."

The 205 Water St. site is owned by Harry Kotowitz, who has repeatedly declined to reveal the extent of his offer to the School Construction Authority. Fisher said that Kotowitz's offer would cost the SCA more money because "he's not offering anything for free like Two Trees is."

Others pointed out that in

2006, Kotowitz was widely criticized — including by David Yassky and the anti-Walentas DUMBO Neighborhood Association — for tearing down the historic building that once stood at that site.

Will Havemann, a spokesman for the Department of Education, said the agency is "doing its due diligence" in tearing down the historic building at the 205 Water St. site, but added that "at this time, we still believe that the Dock Street project is the most cost-efficient proposal."

In other interesting news from the document dump:

- The full extent of the Two Trees lobbying campaign goes a bit deeper. Several times over the past six months, Jed Walentas or Laura Bailyn wrote directly to School Construction Authority officials to urge them to get on the same page as the company.

On Nov. 24, for example, Bailyn wrote to a variety of city officials to urge the School Construction Authority to publicly repudiate Yassky's call for a middle school at the PS 8 site.

"The Department of Education and the SCA need to make clear to the community that Dock Street is the only site under consideration ... and only because of the Two Trees donation is there even the possibility of the school. ... If this is not done, the PS8 or other alternative will gain currency."

A month later, a Two Trees lobbyist, Joni Yosewicz, told Jed Walentas that she hoped the School Construction would "do the right thing and shut down this option publicly."

Walentas forwarded — most likely by accident — Yosewicz's e-mail to School Construction Authority President Sharon Greenberger, who wrote back, "We have said consistently that we support this project [and that] a K-8 addition at PS 8 is not feasible."

Then, later in the day, though, Greenberger sent an e-mail to a member of her staff that reflected her frustration with Two Trees' demands.

"How dare they state 'the SCA should do the right thing,'" she wrote. "This

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Armory is still on track

Center will be open before school's out

By Mike McCaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The long-delayed recreation center at the Park Slope Armory won't be fully running until September, but there will be some school and camp use before that, according to representatives from the Prospect Park YMCA.

As the Brooklyn Paper reported in February, the city and the Y have nearly come to terms on a contract that would allow for a soft opening in May — just in time for the vast space on Eighth Avenue between 14th and 15th streets to be available for recreation-starved schools at the tail end of the school year.

"We have no gym — we use our courtyard," said Cynthia Holton, principal of PS 107, which is excited about getting inside the building one block south.

During the spring and summer, the Y will open the Armory to neighbors in order to drum up members, who will start paying to use the fitness



center in September.

"We're going to provide community access to give people a chance to use the facility," said Prospect Park YMCA Executive Director Sean Andrews.

The timing couldn't come quick enough. In 2007, the city completed a \$16-million renovation of the vast 14-year-old building, but it's been unused since then. It wasn't until last March that the city chose the Y, whose main building is

on Ninth Street, to operate the 15,000-square-foot recreation center and it will only be in the coming weeks that the Bloomberg Administration formally hands over the keys to the castle.

"We want our Armory open," said Neia Lalit, chair of the Community Board 6 Parks and Recreation Committee, which heard a presentation from Andrews last Wednesday. "To have it sit empty for over a year is maddening."

Others pointed out that in

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BROKE-LYN PHILHARMONIC

Lacking funding, orchestra cancels shows, lays off staff



Conductor Michael Christie has led the Brooklyn Philharmonic for three years. Now, budget cuts have curtailed his season.

By Ben Muesig

The Brooklyn Philharmonic might want to consider playing a funeral march — the cash-strapped orchestra just cut the remainder of its 2009 season, and laid off four workers, due to a lack of funding.

Money is so tight that the borough's acclaimed symphony has canceled its final two orchestra performances scheduled for the Brooklyn Academy of Music on May 9, a story that was first reported by New York Press.

Nearly 85 percent of the classical ensemble's funding comes from donations from foundations, corporations, government officials and individual contributors — but

the economic downturn has resulted in funding that's down almost 30 percent, Executive Director Greg Pierson told The Brooklyn Paper.

"We are taking every effort in order to increase and strengthen our fundraising efforts to assure that the Brooklyn Philharmonic's programs continue," Pierson said.

In order to save cash, the orchestra has nixed a matinee rendition of "A Mousse, a Wolf and a Boy Named Peter," and a performance of "Russian Tales" that was scheduled to include world premiere choreography for Stravinsky's "A Soldier's Tale."

To further cut costs, the orchestra has laid off four non-musicians, Pierson said.

The news might sound like Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" (that's one of the great composer's saddest pieces, by the way), but Pierson promises that the orchestra will return for a 56th season.

The Brooklyn Philharmonic plans to continue community concerts next season, including those at the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Public Library, and other venues throughout the borough, he said.

The budgetary woes won't stand in the way of an April 19 solo performance by Brooklyn Philharmonic Concertmaster Deborah Bock at the Brooklyn Museum, nor will it cancel the symphony's education and community programs, Pierson said.



Former City Councilman Steve DiBrienza is no longer seeking his old job.

SCANDAL

Continued from page 1

Randy Peers, the chairman of Community Board 7 who is supporting Brad Lander in the now-six-man race to succeed Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope).

In the wake of the scandal, Josh Skaller, a rival for the Windsor Terrace and Park Slope seat, called for the city to release paperwork about DiBrienza's non-profit.

Last week, the Department of Youth and Cultural Development made the paperwork available to The Brooklyn Paper. The documents did not explain exactly what DiBrienza's group did with the city money, and at least one site visit suggested that the non-profit didn't keep very good records.

"Overall, the services [delivered] could have been better defined," said the June 3, 2008 audit, which called for "a better description and quantification" by DiBrienza's group.

"Services are being provided," the audit continued, "but not reflected adequately ... to be compared with compliance."

TREES...

Continued from page 1

Scott Stamford, as he led a Brooklyn Paper reporter on a fact-finding mission. "And this ornamental crabapple tree — it's one of the most beautiful trees here, and it's nowhere near where it should be at this time of year."

Stamford said that even a few buds don't necessarily mean that his trees will recover.

A dying tree will show some activity — it's a slow process sometimes — so every season we may see fewer and fewer signs of life," he said.

Less-resilient bushes and shrubbery were hit especially hard.

"The wisteria is done for," said Andariene, gesturing to the shriveled brown vines that are supposed to produce purple blossoms. She also pointed out the sad looking brown bushes at her feet that are usually green by this time of year.

And if the damage is permanent?

"Well, the lawyers will have to figure that out," said Stamford.

Mark Thompson, owner of the neighboring Brooklyn Ice Cream Factory, strolled by as Stamford and Andariene were inspecting the greenery.

"Imagine if the 'Waterfalls' were put on the Potomac in Washington instead, and they ruined the cherry blossoms," Thompson said. "People would be furious. It's the same thing here. People in Brooklyn look forward to seeing these trees in bloom every year, and they are going to be disappointed if that doesn't happen."

Witnesses look upstate for land

Brooklyn-based Watchtower Society buys 248 acres in Ramapo, NY

By Evan Gardner

The Brooklyn Paper

First came the sell-off, next comes the big move.

After five years of selling off hundreds of millions of dollars in real-estate holdings in Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO, the Jehovah's Witnesses have finally bought something big: 248 acres upstate.

The Promised Land (for Witnesses, at least) has a name: Ramapo, N.Y.

Last month, the sect, officially known as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and best known to the outside world for its Bible publishing and door-to-door proselytizing, bought the Ramapo tract, the third and largest acquisition in upstate New York in as many years.

The \$11.5-million site will someday house more than half of the organization's 1,500-person administrative staff, which is currently headquartered in Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO, according to a spokesman.

All along, the Watchtower had maintained that its core headquarters would remain in Brooklyn, but the personnel shift seems to indicate otherwise.

"We would like to build a five-acre complex for about 850 people," update, said Richard Devine, "Right now, the land is zoned for residential uses, so we have made a proposal to the town to re-zone it [Construction] is several years in the future."

Until now, the Watchtower Society's residential and publishing facilities in Brooklyn have remained separate. Combining both facilities at one upstate site would create a large, centralized religious compound.

Whenever the move happens, it will not have been unexpected. For more than four years, the Jehovah's Witnesses have been undertaking a sell-off of Biblical properties, including:

- 360 Furan St., a 14-story building which sold in 2004 for \$205 million and is currently being redeveloped as the all-luxury, waterfront One Brooklyn Bridge Park;

- 67 Livingston St., a 26-story tower which went for \$18.6 million in 2006;

- 99 Hicks St., which was sold to the Brooklyn Law School in 2006 for \$14 million;

- 169 Columbia Heights, also known as the Standish Arms, a swanky 12-story building which was sold for \$50 million in 2007.

The crown jewel of the Witnesses' real-estate holdings — the Bossert Hotel on Montague Street — remains on the block after a reported buyer backed away from the deal last year.

The Witnesses still hold a dozen or more properties in the area, including four large office buildings and two large parking lots — which have a lucrative residential zoning — in DUMBO.

The group is respected among real estate dealers for its business acumen, the excellent condition in which it maintains its properties, and a history of keeping its cards very close to its chest.

"It appears that they will eventually transfer most of their operations upstate," said broker Chris Havens. "The real bet is whether they will be able to do so."

"We have no plans to sell any future properties [in Brooklyn]," said Devine.

For now, though, the remainder of the Watchtower Society's Brooklyn properties appears to be staying off the market, what with the New York real-estate market experiencing its own Armageddon.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

April 4, 2009

Metro matters

Seeing the soul under Metrotech's corporate skin

By the GO Brooklyn team
The Brooklyn Paper

The Metrotech complex in Downtown Brooklyn is a bit quiet for a place where thousands of people work and study. But the good news is that just a few steps in any direction from the verdant still at the heart of the office park is a hustle and bustle worthy of an urban downtown.

GO Brooklyn's award-winning reporters, happily ensconced in their new Metrotech offices (see star on map), started exploring the neighborhood from the moment they got there. Here is their report:

1. I am the man

If you're like us, you spend most of your lunch hour looking for a cheap sandwich. There are plenty of options, but only one champion: Zam's. Starting at 6 a.m. lines form for the pressed-edge-on-toast sandwich (just \$2.50), and the frenzy doesn't quiet down much through lunch.

"I love the hot roast beef sandwich," said Jaou Mana, a regular. "I'm so happy with it, I never get anything else."

Zam's (415 Fulton St. between Pearl and Adams Streets, (718) 246-2299).

2. TKTS to ride

Since it opened in July, the Theatre Development Fund's half-priced Broadway and Off-Broadway booth has been a god-send for culture-starved Brooklynites.

The booth offers same-day tickets for the biggest shows on Broadway.

TKTS (at Jay Street and the Myrtle Avenue promenade) is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For info, visit www.tdft.org/TKTS.

3. Prime time

In many ways, Morton's is a perfect fit for Metrotech — a bit antiseptic and welcoming in a Midwestern sort of way. But look deeper and celebrate the single best happy hour deal in all of Brooklyn: During the "Power Hour" — 5 to 6:30 p.m. and 7 to 11 p.m., every night — there are drink specials and three mini-cheesburgers for \$6. Enough said.

Morton's Steakhouse (339 Adams St., between Wiloughby and Johnson streets, (718) 596-2700).

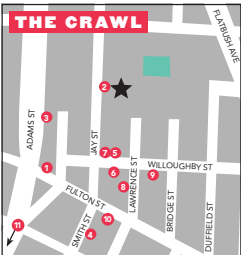
4. Lordy lordy

On weekends, the am and noon services at the Brooklyn Taberna are a hot ticket, thanks to a Grammy-Award-winning chamber choir that has taken out the Gospel. The 10,000-member congregation is one of the most diverse in Brooklyn.

Brooklyn Taberna (17 Smith St. between Fulton and Livingston streets, (718) 290-2000).

5. Health department

Surrounded by Brooklyn's largest vegetable-free zone, Downtown Natural Mar-



ket is a welcome oasis of natural herbs, detoxifying tonics and vitamins. And while you're browsing the aisles for your B-12, you might also come upon a shelf groaning with "sensual boosters."

"Ask your doctor," the sign reads — except the word "doctor" is crossed out and replaced with the word "wife."

When asked about the sign, manager Amit Patel said that such sales are a minor part of his 25-year-old business.

"You know what keeps us running?" Patel said. "A huge Caribbean crowd. They're very much into herbs and teas."

Downtown Natural Market (51 Wiloughby St., between Jay and Lawrence streets, (718) 834-1215).

6. The local bar

Amid the many fast-stop shops that line Wiloughby Street is a genuine local



pub, Kevin Barry's. But this is no night-time hotspot. It's a bar that does its business with a hand-drinking lunchtime crowd (thanks to the \$1 off your lunch bill for each beer you order). The pstrami sandwich is a miss, but the burgers are good.

Kevin Barry's (56 Wiloughby St., between Jay and Lawrence streets, (718) 488-8901).

7. Faith and 'Hope'

Do you love President Obama? Then we have a poster shop for you. Dozens of framed prints and artworks depicting the new president — plus other prints featuring prior heroes including John Coltrane, Muhammad Ali, Bob Marley and Josephine Baker — line the walls of the Faith Art Gallery.

It's also the nearest place to get something framed professionally.

Faith Art Gallery (395 Jay St., at Wiloughby Street, (718) 596-4659).

8. She's no jerk

The place is nothing to look at, but one sniff upon entering Justin's Island Cuisine will tell you that you're not in Kansas anymore.

Owner Sandy Boodram has been in business for 20 years — largely on the strength of her curries, roti and jerk chicken (88 during lunch hour).

Justin's Island Cuisine (144 Lawrence St., between Wiloughby and Fulton streets, (718) 625-9190).

9. That's fishy

Don't look for a name over the awning of the fish store on Wiloughby Street.

And don't look for any decor, either. But that doesn't mean you can't get a great fresh fried fish sandwich. Owner Chang Rae Choi has been serving them up for nearly 50 years, and there's always a line for the three large pieces of fried whiting on wheat bread (\$3.75).

Fish shop (70 Wiloughby St., between Bridge and Jay streets). No phone.

10. They got soul

On sunny days, the Fulton Mall is lined with music vendors hawkling mixtapes loaded with R 'n' B classics, soul music jams, and gospel standbys.

"Every CD has a theme and the tracks match the theme — they complement each other," said Rev. James McCombs, who sets up a CD table on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Rev. James McCombs's music table (Fulton Street between Jay and Lawrence streets, every Tuesday and Thursday).

11. Sic transit gloria

The exhibits at the New York City Transit Museum change on a quarterly basis (too bad, because "Steel, Stone and Backbone," about the building of the subway system, is great), but the real attraction of this former subway station are the antique trains on the platform level. Choose your favorite old turnstile and head downstairs where you can "ride" on most of the long-gone trains from your long-gone youth. And the best part is, the cars are in pristine condition, right down to the period advertising.

New York City Transit Museum (corner of Boerum Place and Schermerhorn Street, (718) 694-1600). Closed Monday.

MUSIC

Brass ball

Consider the humble trombone. Long the bane of "serious" classical musicians, shunted out to the side by jazz ensembles and almost always ridiculed in teen angst movies, trombones have an unfair reputation as a comic trope.

But trombones also have a proud history. Bach and Handel were fans, and Mozart was known to pull out the horn when he wanted to go funeral.

Now, starting on Saturday, the trombone will regain its lofty position during a month-long festival at the Beam Music Studio in Gowanus.

"We're not doing this because the trombone is some kind of maligned instrument," said Brian Dye (pictured), an organizer (and trombonist, of course). "Actually, in New York City, trombones are huge. Many bands have trombones front and center."

One of the bands performing will be the all-trombone quartet Water Surgeons (April 4). "We're able to create a very broad range of timbres," says Josh Rosenman, a trombonist (obviously). "The music ranges from deconstructions of works by Chopin to odd-meter punk rock."

Trombone Festival, every Saturday, April 4–25, at 8 p.m. at Beam Music Studio (168 Seventh St., between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (646) 456-6332). Cover, \$10. For info visit www.beambrooklyn.com.

—Heather Holland

MUSIC

Wrens fly

New Jersey's best indie-rock band is actually a product of Brooklyn.

The Wrens have been churning out heart-wrenching guitar rock about Secaucus and the Meadowlands for the past 20 years — but don't tell the group's fan base in the Garden State, but the band's front man lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Lead singer Charles Bissell, whose quartet will perform at the Bell House on April 10.

That might come as a surprise to longtime fans of the seminal indie rockers, who recorded every note of their brooding — yet catchy — 2003 masterpiece "The Meadowlands" in the dining room of their one-time communal New Jersey home.

They'll play the album, plus the three (yes, three) songs they've recorded since 2003, at the concert.

The Wrens at the Bell House (149 Seventh St., at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6501). April 10, 8 p.m. Tickets, \$14. www.thebellhouse.com.

—Ben Muesigg

EVENT

Jews in space

This Passover is one for the celestial record books — religious Jews say it's only the third time in history that a 5,769-year-old Jewish calendar (that the holiday begins at the same time that the sun is in the exact position it occupied when it was created by God [not his real name]).

To mark this rare event, rabbis from Congregation R' Eli Avraham in Brooklyn Heights will lead a special "sun blessing" at Borough Hall.

Rabbi Simcha Weinstein from the Remsen Street orthodox synagogue sees the overlapping with Passover as more than a coincidence.

"The world is in turmoil and darkness. We all feel it, we're one step from Wall Street," Weinstein told The Brooklyn Paper. However, "I feel like there's light at the end of the tunnel." Light, perhaps, but nothing having anything to do with the supposed Creation of the sun, planets and the universe. The light on Wednesday morning will merely be the sun coming over the horizon, said one noted astronomer.

"There's nothing of significance on that day," said Dr. Greg Matloff, an astrophysicist at City Tech in Downtown Brooklyn.

Biklat HaChannah, steps of Borough Hall (209 Kensington St. between Court and Adams streets in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 596-4840). April 8, 8:45 a.m.

—Mike McLaughlin

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HERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY April 4	SUNDAY April 5	MONDAY April 6	TUESDAY April 7	WEDNESDAY April 8
Greene tour Join Beverly Cumbo, Fort Greene's pre-eminent tour guide (and sister of Laurie Cumbo, Brooklyn's legendary African art expert), for a walk-and-talk around Fort Greene Park, Walt Whitman's favorite grassy knoll. The tour will also wind through parts of greater Fort Greene, including MoCADA and a historic church. 1 pm, Walking tour of Fort Greene. Meet at Caylor Gore Park (corner of Fulton St. and Greene Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 774-1970). \$13. WITCHAMONGERS Free. Noon. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audubon HISTORIC FORT GREENE TOUR Led by Big Chon Watkins. Tours \$15 (512 students and seniors). 1 pm. Meet at the SAM sign (Lafayette and Flatbush avenues in Fort Greene, (212) 435-1000). www.bignoon.com DISCOVERY TOUR Meet birds and learn about them. Free. 4 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above). JAZZ SHOW AND TALK Randy Weston Trio performs and professor Robby Kelley leads a discussion of Brooklyn jazz history. Part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. Free. 1 pm. Gershwin Theater at Brooklyn College (2900 Bedford Ave. at Avenue H in Flatbush, (718) 951-5655). www.brooklynjazz.org STREET DANCE: "CATAPULT" Elizabeth Streib's high-flying dance troupe. \$20 (510 kids, 3 and 7 pm). Street Lab for Action Mechanics (315 N. First St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 384-6491). www.streetlab.org MASTER CLASS WITH GUITAR VIRTUOSO HOWARD ALDEN 10:30-5:30 pm. Belarussian Church (401 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 569-1896). www.cbcjazz.org	Coney history Astroland is long gone, but some fun continues at Coney Island, starting today with the official opening of the Cyclone, an open house at the Coney Island History Project, and the first rides of the season on Deno's Wonder Wheel. 11 am, Deno's Wonder Wheel (Boardwalk at West 12th Street; noon, Cyclone (834 Surf Ave. at West 10th Street) and Coney Island History Project (824 Surf Ave. at West 10th Street, (718) 285-2100). Curds? No whey! Face it: the wine-and-cheese combo is starting to seem a little...well, cheesy. So how about spritzing up your cultured whey with some such, courtesy of Smutty-nose Brewery? The New Hampshire microbrewery will pair four select ales with an assortment of cheese for a combo that's sure to create a new cliché: the beer-and-cheese party. 6 pm, Flight Club: Bell House (149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510). \$10 for a four beer and cheese "flight." City kid Nelson George grew up in the crime-ridden projects of Brownsville in the 1960s and '70s and went on to become a widely respected writer and critic of African-American culture. Tonight, George will read from his new memoir (which has stories about his collaborations with Spike Lee, Russell Simmons and Chris Rock). Sounds fun. 7 pm, "City Kid" reading: Barnes & Noble (106 Court St. between Schermerhorn and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 246-4996). Free. Out of Egypt Passover has got it all—songs, family plagues, and the always-entertaining (and sometimes violent) hunt for the Afikomen. Whether you've been dining reclined for years, or are barely old enough to ask the Four Questions, Congregation B'nai Avraham's community Seder is guaranteed to have so much gefilte fish that you'll be saying "dayeinu, already!" 8 pm, Seder: Congregation B'nai Avraham (117 Remsen St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 596-4848). \$20, \$25 for students and seniors.			

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

SAT. APRIL 4

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
OPENING DAY CLEAN-UP: Join volunteers to spruce up Prospect Park. 10 am-2 pm. Tennis House (Enter park at Ninth Street and Prospect Park West in Prospect Park, (718) 955-8960). www.prospectpark.org
BIRDWATCHING
Free. Noon. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audubon
HISTORIC FORT GREENE TOUR
Led by Big Chon Watkins. Tours \$15 (512 students and seniors). 1 pm. Meet at the SAM sign (Lafayette and Flatbush avenues in Fort Greene, (212) 435-1000). www.bignoon.com
DISCOVERY TOUR
Meet birds and learn about them. Free. 4 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center (see venue info above).
JAZZ SHOW AND TALK
Randy Weston Trio performs and professor Robby Kelley leads a discussion of Brooklyn jazz history. Part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. Free. 1 pm. Gershwin Theater at Brooklyn College (2900 Bedford Ave. at Avenue H in Flatbush, (718) 951-5655). www.brooklynjazz.org
STREET DANCE: "CATAPULT"
Elizabeth Streib's high-flying dance troupe. \$20 (510 kids, 3 and 7 pm). Street Lab for Action Mechanics (315 N. First St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 384-6491). www.streetlab.org
MASTER CLASS WITH GUITAR VIRTUOSO HOWARD ALDEN
10:30-5:30 pm. Belarussian Church (401 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 569-1896). www.cbcjazz.org

"FIRST SATURDAY" AT THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM
Includes live music, gallery talks, hands-on art, dance party and more. Free. 6 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000). www.brooklynmuseum.org
ROY HAYNES CONCERT WITH AMIRI BAKARA AND VANESSA RUBIN
Part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. \$20 (540 \$10 students). 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Tech Auditorium (8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827). www.bkcsj.org
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Get the lead out

Park Slope mom writes book, juggles it all

By **Alisha Gawad**
for The Brooklyn Paper

Lidia Denworth was just another Park Slope mom, journalist and civic leader when she got hold of a story — the pernicious history of lead and decades of failure to fix the toxic nightmare — that wouldn't let go.

But as Faulkner famously wrote, the past isn't dead, it's not even past — especially where lead poisoning is concerned. Last week, for example, Nordstrom had to send back 30,000 lead-tainted girls' shoes back to China, a chilling reminder of the lead paint scare that ravaged Mattel — and its customers — in 2007.

Not a bad week to be selling a book called, "Toxic Truth: A Scientist, a Doctor, and the Battle Over Lead."

"Sad to say, but lead is creeping back into things kids can get

a hold of, and it's alarming," Denworth said.

Worse, she said, lead is still hiding in plain sight in our own homes, especially those built before the ban on lead-based paint in 1970. As Denworth is quick to remind, your kid is often just one thin layer of water-based paint away from contact with the lead paints of the past.

"Brooklyn is a lead belt," said Denworth, who has written for Newsweek and People, and was the president of the Park Slope Civic Council before leaving to write her book. "I guarantee you that only new construction in Park Slope doesn't have lead."

"How many fewer children would be affected today if we only had to worry about lead in houses built before 1970?" she asked.

Conveniently enough, her book has the answer.

BOOKS

Denworth will be reading from **"Toxic Truth"** at the Park Slope Barnes and Noble (267 Seventh Ave., 718 832-9066) on Saturday, April 4 at 2 p.m. She will also read at Union Hall (702 Union St., between Fifth and Sixth avenues, 718 638-4400) on Sunday, April 12 at 5 p.m.



Metalhead: Park Sloper Lydia Denworth's book about the dangers of lead is a page turner.

"Toxic Truth" centers on a doctor and a scientist who fought to expose one of the biggest public health crises of the 20th century — all along flummoxed by government officials who knew lead was poisonous decades but balked at banning it.

As a mother of three, she immediately saw the doctor, Herb Needleman, as a hero worthy of a book-length treatment.

"When I first heard about him, I was a new mom, and it outraged me that no one listened to him," she said. "I was naive and a little simplistic in my thinking, but I was still right to be outraged."

"People knew lead was bad way back to 1904, but it's outrageous that it took [until the 1970s] to get it banned!" she added.

Going 'fourth'

Heights college offers prize for the novel after the third

By **Ben Muessig**
The Brooklyn Paper

For some novelists, the fourth time's the charm.

That's certainly true for the fourth-time writer who wins a \$50,000 prize now being offered by St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights.

A panel of literary stars including Michael Chabon (whose fourth book, "Wirewolves in their Youth," was critically eclipsed by his fifth, "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay"); Jonathan Lethem (whose fifth published novel, "Motherless Brooklyn," earned him wide praise); and husband-and-wife book-world bosses Ben Marcus and Heidi Julavits (each of whom have published only three novels) will scan the submissions and select the best fourth novel or collection of stories in July.

Organizers say they didn't decide to honor the fourth work because it's necessarily the best — but because four times often need the most help.

"There are so many prizes for first novels and so many end-of-life achievement awards, but the time after the third book and before the

fourth is a critical moment for a writer," said Associate English Professor Ian Maloney.

"If you get accepted into a publishing house, it's typical to get a three-book contract — when that ends a lot of writers have to decide if they want to keep going or go back to another job or teach," he added.

One writer who could have used some fourth book help — though perhaps not the cash — is Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling, who said that her fourth Harry Potter book — "The Goblet of Fire," of course — was the most difficult to write.

"I wrote what I thought was half the book, and I had a huge gaping hole in the middle of the plot," she told Entertainment Weekly in 2000.

Other acclaimed writers, like "Invisible Man" author Ralph Ellison and "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee, never even made it to number four.

Yet for a handful of scribes, four is a magic number.

William Faulkner's fourth novel, "The Sound and the Fury," is his most famous — and Salman Rushdie's famed

fourth book, "The Satanic Verses," was so good that the Ayatollah ordered him killed.

Book experts say that St. Francis College's decision to honor a fourth work of fiction with cash, a reading at the Remsen Street college, and the chance to lead a short fiction workshop, isn't an act of literary numerology.

"It's silly to think that there's some magic about number four," said Michael Strong, an agent at Regal Literary. "Whoever made that decision to honor a fourth-time writer must have been thinking that the school doesn't want to launch a star or find somebody new, but rather reward professionalism and filter out people who haven't been at it for a long time."

Limiting the contest in this way will ease the burden on the judges, according to organizers. "What's great about the selection is they are not going to be deluged by every first novelist in the country — it's going to be a very selective group," Maloney said.

For information, visit www.stfranciscollege.edu/literaryprize.

Is the fourth the charm?

News that St. Francis College has created a prestigious award for a writer's fourth novel made us wonder if some of the world's best authors could have won it. Here's how some of the greats shaped up: — **Dustin Seplow**

Author	Fourth book	Brooklyn Paper assessment
Ernest Hemingway	"To Have and Have Not"	Hemingway was said to have hated the book and only wrote it out of contractual obligation.
George Orwell	"Coming up for Air"	The novel directly before "Animal Farm" and "1984." Nuff said.
Ayn Rand	"The Fountainhead"	It could be her best book — but if you say so at a cocktail party, you'll go home alone.
Ivan Turgenev	"First Love"	A bit sentimental, don't you think?
Joseph Heller	"God Knows"	Underappreciated hilarious novel about King David.
Jonathan Safran Foer	Has not written his fourth novel yet.	He will, dammit, and it's going to be the best thing, because everything he writes is perfect.



Shake it — again — for Coney

You partied for Coney Island on Tuesday, so now it's time to shake your Coney-maker once more.

The legendary Pontani Sisters (pictured) will headline yet another fundraiser for the "Save Coney Island" group, the self-styled (and sometimes scantily clad) advocates for an expanded amusement area and opponents of both the city's and landowner Joe Sitt's plan for the amusement zone to share space with hotels and shopping centers.

This benefit is going to be bigger and better than the last one.

"It's much more of an extravaganza, with a lot of burlesque and sideshow performers," said Danna Carlin, also known

as Lola Starr of the boutique that bears the name and the roller rink she started last year in the old Child's restaurant.

Yes, there'll be hands so you can shake your Coney-maker, but the stars will be the burlesque queens of Brooklyn, including Peekabo Poine, Gigi La Femme and Dame Cuchifrita, plus a sideshow act MC'd by the great Fred Kahl, the Great Fredini.

Coney Island benefit party at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave., between Sterling and St. Johns places in Park Slope, 718) J. Saturday, April 11, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door. For info, visit www.fightforourrighttoconey.com or www.spsounds.com.

— **Gersh Kuntzman**

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

MISS NORWAY PAGEANT: The annual cultural celebration \$30. 2 pm. Norwegian Christian Home 1250 Ave. St. between 12th and 13th avenues in Dyer Heights. (718) 656-1550.

ART OPENING: Jewelry by Dan + Thread 190 Van Brunt St. in Red Hook. www.metalthread.com

READING, LUCETTE LAG: Author of "The Men in the White Shirts" and "The Old Cairo to the New World." Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

READING, NICHOLAS HOGG: Author of "Show Me the Sky." With music by Jeremy Carls. Free. 4 pm. Barbed 1250 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 965-9171. www.brooklynpubliclibrary.com.

FILM, "MEASURES OF THE FLESH": \$11. 4:30 pm, 6:50 pm, 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music 30 Lafayette St. at Fulton St. (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org.

ART OPENING: British street artists Miss Buggs and Joe Black. Free. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Gallery 334 Malcolm X Blvd. between Decatur and Bainbridge streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (347) 465-5970. www.brooklynartgallery.com.

DANCE PARTY: Fundraiser for the Church of Gethsemane Food Pantry. \$10. 8-11 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope. (718) 768-2972. www.bsec.org.

DISCOVERY TOUR: See Saturday, April 4.

PERFORMANCE: Jazz: Zack O'Farrell Quartet. \$6. Noon-4 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope. (718) 499-0292. www.puppetsjazz.com.

THEATER, "SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD": 2 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

STREET DANCE, "CATAPULT": 3 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Dvorak and Brahms. \$40

SALES AND MARKETS: Flea Market: Free. 8 am-5 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help 345 40th St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Sunset Park. (917) 312-9855. www.dlskale.org.

WINTER ANTIQUES MARKET: See Saturday, April 4.

TALK, EXISTENTIALISM AND ETHICS WITH REV. USA: \$10. 7 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope. (718) 768-2972. www.bsec.org.

SUPERMARKET BINGO: Fund-



Superdrag plays the Music Hall of Williamsburg on April 10. For more Brooklyn Nightlife options, see our listings at BrooklynPaper.com/Nightlife

http://

THEATER, "THE HEAVENS OF HELL": 4 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

THEATER, "THE ILIAD": Aquila Theatre performs an updated version of Homer's epic poem. Discussion follows. Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

BILL HUDSON CONCERT: Part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. \$20. 5-8 pm. Jazz 966 1966 Fulton St. at St. James Place in Clinton Hill. (718) 638-6910. www.billhudson.com.

UPSTART DANCE FESTIVAL: Work by new choreographers. \$15. 6 pm. Brooklyn Arts Exchange 421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope. (718) 832-0018. www.bae.org.

THEATER, "LA DIONCE": 7 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

JOURNEY DANCERS: With students from the Brooklyn Music School. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 7 pm. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse 126 St. Felix St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene. (718) 638-5650. www.brooklynmusic.org.

OTHER: Talk, Existentialism and Ethics with Rev. USA: \$10. 7 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture 53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope. (718) 768-2972. www.bsec.org.

SALES AND MARKETS: Flea Market: Free. 8 am-5 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help 345 40th St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Sunset Park. (917) 312-9855. www.dlskale.org.

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SUPERMARKET BINGO: Fund-

raiser for local VFW Jr. Girls. \$5. 1 pm. VFW Post 3584 181 Grand St. between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg.

SILENT SLAPSTICK: Classic shorts with live piano accompaniment by Stuart Oderman. Free. 1:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

ART OPENING: "Seaworthy," a group show, and painter Paul Jensen. Free. 4-6 pm. Corner Gallery 134 Grand Ave. at Lexington Avenue in Clinton Hill. (718) 638-0741. www.cornergallery.com.

FILM, "ORTHODOX STANCES": Part of the Brooklyn Heights Jewish International Film Festival. \$5. 7 pm. Congregation B'nai Avraham 117 Remsen St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 596-4848 ext. 115. www.bnaivraham.com.

READING, RASHID KHALIDI: Author of "Sowing Seeds: The Cold War and American Dominance in the Middle East." \$5 (suggested). 7:30 pm. Congregation B'nai Avraham 117 Remsen St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 596-4848 ext. 115. www.bnaivraham.com.

MON, APRIL 6

CHRONIC FATIGUE SUPPORT GROUP: Free. 1 pm. New York Methodist Hospital, Executive Dining Room 501 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope. (718) 760-5307.

READING, DAVID GRANN: Author of "The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill. (718) 875-3671. www.bookcourt.org.

TUES, APRIL 7

HEPATITIS C SUPPORT GROUP: Free. 6 pm. New York Methodist Hospital, Wesley House 801 Sixth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope.

HOME AND GARDEN RENOVATION FOR HIPSTERS: Free. 6 pm. The Bell House 149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus. (718) 643-6510. www.thebellhouse.com.

READING, ARTHUR PHILLIPS: Author of "This Song Is You." With live music by Jonathan

Spotswoods. Free. 7 pm. BookCourt 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill. (718) 875-3671. www.bookcourt.org.

READING, NELSON GEORGE: Author of "City Kid." Free. 7 pm. Barnes & Noble Court Street 100 Court St. between Livingston and State streets in Downtown Brooklyn. (718) 246-4996.

THEATER, "LA DIONCE": 8 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

"ADULT EDUCATION": Lecture series includes speakers on the quirky history and meaning of color. \$5. 8 pm. Union Hall 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 638-4400. www.unionhall.org.

FILM, "JESUS CAMP": Documentary about a conservative Christian summer camp. \$5. 8 pm. The Bell House 149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus. (718) 643-6510. www.thebellhouse.com.

WED, APRIL 8

First night of Passover BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST: Sponsored by Brooklyn Business Base. \$15 (91 in advance). 7:45-9:15 am. Park Plaza Restaurant 220 Calman Plaza West between Clark and Midland streets in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 596-5900. www.mestup.com/BrooklynBusinessBase.

READING, MARY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS: Author of "Gimme Shelter." Free. 7 pm. BookCourt 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill. (718) 875-3671. www.bookcourt.org.

THEATER, "LA DIONCE": 8 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

COMMUNITY SEER: \$50 (\$25 students and seniors, \$15 children). 8 pm. Congregation B'nai Avraham 117 Remsen St. between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 596-4848 ext. 115. www.bnaivraham.com.

THURS, APRIL 9

Second night of Passover ART OPENING: "Sherezae — the Second Night," art installation inspired by the "Arabian Nights." Free. 6-8 pm. 163 Plymouth St. at Jay Street in DUMBO. web: www.lucawarckmeister.com. See 9 DAYS on page 13

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How bazaar!

There's a new flea — this time in the South Slope

By Ben Muessegger

The borough's newest flea market is about to land in a parking lot behind an Islamic School on 20th Street.

The Park Slope Flea Market will launch next month in the rear of the Al-Noor School, bringing more than 60 vendors each Saturday and Sunday to the block between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

"There's going to be clothing, jewelry, antiques — we're going to have it all," said South Slope resident Mohamed Toom, one of the organizers of the market, which is set to take place in the 25,000-square-foot parking lot through the fall.

Alongside the secondhand goods, the flea will also feature food vendors — some of whom will hawk Middle Eastern grub.

According to Toom, the location of the market, which is

midway up a somewhat desolate block, is perfect for shoppers who are itching for a deal.

"This is a great location because it's close to everything: the trains, Fifth Avenue, Park Slope, even Downtown Brooklyn," said Toom. "This is going to be great for the neighborhood."

Aaron Brashear — the so-called "Mayor of Greenwood Heights" — agreed that the flea would be a boon for the community, which boasts new restaurants, eateries and shops, as well as old-time mom-and-pop businesses.

"It's great news anytime that somebody can find an innovative way to bring the community together," said the 23rd Street resident. "This will ultimately add to the diversity of the communities in the neighborhood."



PHOTO BY BEN MUESSGGER FOR THE BROOKLYN PAPER

But Brashear confessed that he was asked by the Park Slope Flea Market's name.

"They should call Greenwood Heights what it is," said Brashear. "We have enough Park Slope signs already."

This "Park Slope Flea Market" will join a crowded field of weekend bazaars that are springing up in the wake of the hugely popular Brooklyn Flea, which is set to begin its second year in Fort Greene on April 18 after a wintertime run indoors in DUMBO.

The best known of Park Slope, of course, is at PS 321 on Seventh Avenue. That one is also known as "the Park Slope flea market," setting up a potential rivalry for such a coveted name.

This is a 'lot' of trouble

MTA cars get great city view!

By Ben Muessegger

The Bloomberg administration has presented the MTA with eight alternate sites for the parking lot, including locations at the foot of the Williamsburg Bridge and beneath the elevated F train on 10th Street in Gowanus — but the agency has

mixed all of options. Nonetheless, the city claims it remains dedicated to building Commercial Street Park, which is between Box and Clay streets, according to Andrew Brent, a mayor's spokesman.

"Moving the MTA facilities off the site has proven more difficult and takes longer than we expected, but we are committed to getting it done," Brent said.

The MTA attributes the hold-up to the city's suggested alternate locations, which the agency claims would not prove functional. "We haven't been able to agree on a suitable location that meets our needs," said a MTA spokesman Kevin Smith. No matter who's to blame for the

said, "At this point, we can say that the promise has been broken."

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The MTA owns this waterfront site — perfect for cars!

overhead parkland, North Brooklynites are sick of waiting — and they're not keeping quiet about it anymore.

On May 14, the Parks Department's promotional "It's My Park" day, North Brooklynites will take part in a satellite tour of their neighborhood's unbuilt parkland in an event called "Where's My Park" day?

The starchy celebration will feature walking and biking tours of

promised open spaces including 65 Commercial St., said organizer Rachelle House.

"We're going to show off what we're missing," said House. The Parks Department says it will break ground this month on the last phase of the nearby 28-acre Bushwick Inlet Park, which includes a soccer field at Kent Avenue and North Ninth Street — after four years of delays.

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Teen Spirit is ready to be a man

In just a few months, Teen Spirit will turn 18. That's the end of childhood, right? It's the age when a boy can become a soldier and vote in a general election. He will can't drink (legally, that is), but he can buy cigarettes and start working at the Park Slope Food Co-op as an adult member of the household.

Yeah. It's weird to have a child who is at the end of childhood. That means he's close to completing that idyllic stage of life that he will discuss again and again in bars, on first dates, in marital counseling and in memoir writing workshops.

His childhood may well be blamed for everything that goes right and wrong in his life, in his relationships and in his career. It may be idealized and exaggerated. Events will be inflated, deprivations and high points will be exaggerated; parents and siblings will be denigrated and glorified (though not always in equal measure).

For now, Smartmon is eschewing the "seems like yesterday" clichés about Teen Spirit's ascent to full manhood. That said, she is always herself a few looks back. How is it possible, she has asked herself a few times this week, that it was nearly 18 years ago when she was wheeled into a delivery room to have her emergency C-section at Lenox Hill Hospital?

To this day, she remembers singing, "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" as she lay in the recovery area. Smartmon can remember the day they moved to Park Slope when Teen Spirit was a tiny 3-month-old. He was cute as a button — she and Hecpat called him their Maurice Sendak baby, thanks to his perfectly round face and his halo of blonde hair.

Truth be told, Teen Spirit was the cutest baby ever. No kidding. People used to stop them on the street to compliment their little boy. They even asked on a few occasions

if they were interested in having him model. Teen Spirit is actually on the cover of a corporation annual report wearing only a cloth diaper.

It's funny to think back to that time. It's like the Garden of Eden of Smartmon and Hecpat's life together — before high school, middle age, and the realities of a 20-year marriage.

Now at 17, Teen Spirit sleeps with his head touching one wall and his feet touching the other. Smartmon and Hecpat can hear his foot pads in their room, which is right next door.

But Teen Spirit never complained or went through that phase where he compared his life to the more opulent lifestyles of his friends, who live in Park Slope and Brooklyn Heights brownstones. He's always been comfortable in his own economic skin and doesn't pine for material possessions or name-brand clothing.

Quite the contrary, Teen Spirit dresses in clothing he finds on the street (washed first, most of the time). Teen Spirit has always been very attached to their building on Third Street, especially when a boy named Eddie moved in downstairs when Teen Spirit was 3. The two quickly became best friends.

For years, "I'm going down Eddie's" was a constant refrain as the boys played in the yard or on the other's apartment.

The other refrain? "I'll chain myself to a lamppost," Teen Spirit would say whenever Smartmon and Hecpat were looking for a new home in whatever affordable neighborhood they were considering at the time.

Sadly, Eddie and his family moved away when he was 14.



By Louise Crawford

and it was a sad day for Teen Spirit. Smartmon always expected to follow their lead and move to a small town somewhere where they would have a big Victorian house with lots of space for everyone.

But never wrap her head around living anywhere else but Brooklyn. But she never got around to moving the family to Ditmas Park or Kensington, where she could give Teen Spirit a

backyard and at least a small piece of the childhood idyll: watching the flowers grow, the dog-wood tree bloom or the neighbor's weird chain link fence.

Smartmon and Hecpat aspired to the American Dream, but Teen Spirit got the Brooklyn Dream instead. And maybe that's not such a bad thing.

How cool was it to have his best friend living right downstairs? There's a special closeness that develops between childhood neighbors in a New York apartment building. Smartmon knows — her oldest friend in the world, Margaret, still finishes her sentences.

Teen Spirit got to play on

the sidewalks of Park Slope. Those summer nights were fun. Especially when the parents barbecued on the street and the kids made 'smores.

Teen Spirit never had to do park projects or do his homework except when he needed a bathroom or a snack. And he never had to worry about getting into a car with a drunk teenage driver.

From a young age, he had the freedom to walk wherever he wanted. Seventh Avenue. Prospect Park. Fifth Avenue. At the age of 14, he was riding the subway all over the city. He got to watch his firefighter father agonize over work in his office (a.k.a. the dining room). And think of the food. The

cuisines of the world are available 24/7. Hey, what do you feel like tonight? Indian, Chinese, Thai, Grand Canyon?

Finally, he absorbed that worldly vibe that comes from living in New York City, which includes a comfort level with a diverse cast of characters, an interest in how people who are different, and appreciation for the colorful and the unusual side of things.

So with the end of Teen Spirit's childhood right around the corner, Smartmon is pretty sure that she and Hecpat gave Teen Spirit a childhood to remember. It may not be the pastoral childhood that Smartmon imagined, but it was a childhood Brooklyn-style. And that makes him ready to be a man (whether he can drink or not).

FAMILY CALENDAR

SAT, APRIL 4
11:30 am and 3 pm: New Orleans Jazz Brats. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400). www.brooklynkids.org

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center (Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 267-3400). www.prospectpark.org/audubon

1 pm: Spring Wash Day. Do the laundry, 19th-century free. Lefties Historic House (Enter park at Flatbush and Ocean avenues in Prospect Park, www.prospectpark.org)

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Sleeping Beauty." 58¢ kids. Puppeteers (138 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street, (718) 965-3391). puppeteers.org

2:45 pm: Baby Loves Disco. Earth Day Celebration. \$15 (\$12 in advance). Southpaw (122 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236). www.southpaw.com

2 pm: Learn about plants. Brooklyn Children's Museum (see venue info above)

SUN, APRIL 5
11:30 am and 3 pm: New Orleans Jazz Brats. See Saturday, April 4.

1 pm: Spring Wash Day. See Saturday, April 4.

12:30 and 2:30 pm: "Sleeping Beauty." See Saturday, April 4.

2:45 pm: Kids video and dance party. \$7 (53 children, \$20 for family of four). Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500). www.galapagosartspace.com

2 pm: Fun activities and the music of Eric Lee & Co.

To list your event, visit: BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit

March: \$15 adult (and one child), \$8 each additional child (see Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 532-0018). www.bae.org

1 pm: Learn about plants. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400). www.brooklynkids.org

6 pm: BINGO/board game night. Free. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710). themovieisnot.com

MON, APRIL 6
11:30 am: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710). themovieisnot.com

4 pm: Film, "The Sound of Music." \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinemas (265 Court St. at Butler Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 624-3748). bigscreenfortheatre.blogspot.com

TUES, APRIL 7
11 am: Sing Along with Lloyd Miller. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710). themovieisnot.com

WED, APRIL 8
1 pm: Spring Wash Day. See Saturday, April 4.

12:30 and 2:30 pm: "Sleeping Beauty." See Saturday, April 4.

2:45 pm: Kids video and dance party. \$7 (53 children, \$20 for family of four). Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500). www.galapagosartspace.com

2 pm: Fun activities and the music of Eric Lee & Co.

To list your event, visit: BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit



"How the Elephant Got Its Trunk," a puppet show based on the story by Rudyard Kipling, will be at the Brooklyn Lyceum on April 11.

Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400). www.brooklynkids.org

6 pm: Nintendo Wii Sports Night. Free. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

FRI, APRIL 10
11:30 am: Eco-fest. See Thursday, April 9.

11:30 am: Storytime. See Monday, April 6.

6:15 pm: Movie night. Free. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710). themovieisnot.com

SAT, APRIL 11
10 am: Spring Egg Hunt. Free. Pierrepont Playground (Pierrepont Place, between Pierrepont and Montague streets in Brooklyn Heights, 11 am: Book swap. Trade in your old kids books and cookbooks. If you swap something, you get a free ticket to the puppet show at 2 pm.

Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816). www.brooklynlyceum.com

11 am and 3 pm: Crazy Buildings. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400). www.brooklynkids.org

11 am and 3 pm: Easter Bunny Brats. Brooklyn Children's Museum (see venue info above).

11 am and 3 pm: Egg fest. Spring-themed activities around the zoo. Prospect Park Zoo (450 Flatbush Ave. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, www.prospectpark.org/audubon)

2 pm: Puppet show, "How the Elephant Got Its Trunk." \$10. Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816). www.brooklynlyceum.com

5:45-9 pm: Family Disco Party. Free. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710). themovieisnot.com

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OUR OPINION

More Coney baloney

In the midst of one of the worst economic downturns since the Great Depression, Mayor Bloomberg wants to spend \$105 million more of your tax dollars to buy out Coney Island's principal landowner — and then spend at least another \$100 million more of your money on a fantasy vision of the former People's Playground.

This week, as Mike McLaughlin reports on our front page, Bloomberg sent a formal \$105-million offer to developer Joe Sitt to buy 10-1/2 acres of Boardwalk-fronting property that's currently zoned for amusements only.

Once he gets that land, the mayor says he will combine it with a smaller plot that the city wasted \$11 million to purchase, and rezone the amusement area into two parts: a nine-acre "park" along the Boardwalk where a new theme park would magically rise; and an adjacent area where indoor amusements, some "entertainment retail" and hotels could be built.

Like most in Brooklyn, we certainly

The mayor's dream of a reborn Coney Island could be achieved — but without wasting millions of dollars.

share the goal of a year-round tourist destination in Coney Island. But we feel that the mayor is entirely misguided about how to achieve it.

Foremost, the city must abandon its obsession with creating a zoned "park" along the Boardwalk. Coney Island's amusement area is currently zoned so that only amusements — rides, games of chance, Shoot the Freak booths and landmarks like the Cyclone and the Wonder Wheel — can operate. That zoning prevents the very things that would help revive Coney Island: hotels along Surf Avenue and other indoor, year-round attractions.

Such amenities are essential to lure private developers — the people who could actually bring about the renais-

sance of Coney Island. Such developers, unlike the city, are subject to market forces and the give-and-take of the public land-use review process. Clearly, the best — and cheapest — course of action is simply to alter the C-7 zoning so that Sitt or any developer could build the indoor amusements and hotels that the city says it wants at Coney Island.

We don't need "park land" zoning when existing zoning is just as strong if not stronger. City officials have confirmed that "park land" zoning does not guarantee a verdant pasture. Indeed, the minor league baseball stadium — and its ugly parking lot — occupy a zoned city park right now.

The city does deserve some credit for finally putting a price on its buyout of Sitt. But there's still a big problem: the price is too high. It would be one thing to spend \$200 million in this down economy on a sure thing. But the mayor's fantasy for Coney Island is increasingly looking like throwing good money after bad.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

An outpouring of support for bikeless Gersh

To the editor,

I just read about the theft of Gersh Kutzman's bike ("Bastard! Someone stole my bike — for the second time this year!" March 26) and I have to say that sucks.

I had my bike stolen about a month ago from in front of our house, sometime between 2 and 7:30 p.m. And that was after my lights had been swiped two days earlier at the same location, and my replacement headlight stolen on Fifth Avenue the same day that they came back for the whole bike. They snipped my U-lock like it was a twig.

I found a pretty decent hybrid on Craigslist for just \$50 cheaper than my new Kryptonite chain

lock), and also bought a fairly fancy new Trek that I'm afraid to take out of the basement.

I'm sure recovery isn't in the cards, but let's hope the charm won't be a third time.

Eric McClure, Park Slope

To the editor,

You've endured my worst nightmare not once, but twice, inside of a year! My heart goes out to you, although with fares rising and the recession deepening, I doubt that any bike is safe any longer.

Ken Coughlin, Manhattan
The writer is on the board of Transportation Alternatives, a bicycle advocacy group.

Send a letter

By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com
By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

In a box

To the editor,

I am a retired nurse of 40-plus years and have been living in Brooklyn Heights for all those years. I have witnessed many accidents and trauma in the emergency room.

As such, I am responding to the recent picture on front page ("Metropolis," March 14) of an 11-year-old boy enclosed in a newbox. I don't think this picture was appropriate or prudent



This picture scared the wits out of a nurse!

for you to run. I question the responsibility of the person who allowed him to get in the newbox, have the door closed and the picture taken.

This photo was a very dangerous and an unsafe message to send to others. Accidents among children are the leading cause of mortality in this country. I am sure you would not have posted a child in an empty refrigerator, stove or other unsafe situation. I can't imagine the company who owns

these boxes would be pleased with this photo.

Jean Torell Hughes, Brooklyn Heights

No third term

To the editor,

I read your story about Mayor Bloomberg's new Brooklyn campaign office ("Billionaire Bloomberg needs you to volunteer for his campaign," online, March 30) and thought, "Isn't it wonderful that this man loves New York City so much he wants another term?"

But voters have already said "no" twice before, in term-limit referendums. With all his money and talent, might one not charitably suggest that Bloomberg search out other projects where his skills could make a greater impact. His act is getting a little stale as it gets more autocratic. And as a Republican! After Rudy and Bushie, I would rather cut off my finger.

In two words, "No, thanks."

William Harris, Boerum Hill

'Star' power

To the editor,

Add Enrique Norton's Carrol

Street building to the list of modernist mistakes: destroying the visual feel of Brownstone Brooklyn ("Starhitect Enrique Norton Builds his dream house in Slope," online, March 26).

What idiot is responsible for that green monstrosity on Eastern Parkway opposite the library? I can just see it when people actually move in. With those floor-to-ceiling windows, occupants will have to put up various shades/blind treatments, making the building look like those Modernist apartment towers they put up in Harlem a generation ago? At least they called that Urban Renewal. What term does that fool Richard Meier have for his glass tower?

Let's hope that other idiot Gehry doesn't grace historic Brooklyn with his architectural follies! **S. Paul, Park Slope**

Cooler heads

To the editor,

Like many Americans, I wanted to string up some Wall Street guy after reading about the latest excesses — the collapse of the economy, followed by bailouts with my money, followed by bonuses given to the very guys who collapsed the economy!

But then I read your story about Rep. Mike McMahon's vote against the House of Representatives' bill to tax AIG bonuses at 90 percent ("The 'mob' is angry, but Ridge Rep. votes for cooler heads," McMahon on Line 1, March 31).

Now, don't misunderstand — I'm still angry. But McMahon made a clear case that this bill — and, indeed, most of the "grab-the-pitchforks" outrage that the media has been whipping up — was a completely exaggerated reaction.

Hearing that McMahon was one of only six Democrats in the country to stand up against this demagoguery — however justified it may have been against those Wall Street jerks! — made me proud to be one of his constituents.

Monty Alagash, Bay Ridge

More Bob love

To the editor,

I wrote this a few days before the April 4 memorial service for Bob Gaskind ("Memorial service set for beloved blogger Gaskind," online, March 20).

On behalf of the Red Hook Food Vendors, I'd like to express my sadness and send my

deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

Bob was an amazing person who often visited our stalls and wrote amazing articles about the vendors and their foods. He was also one of our staunchest advocates when our group faced its darkest moments. Thanks in great part to Bob's support via his Gowanus Lounge blog, we were able to gather popular support to survive and continue our 35-year tradition as one of the neighborhood's favorite culinary institutions.

Bob will always be dearly remembered in our hearts.

Cesar Fuentes, Red Hook

The writer is executive director of the food vendors committee of Red Hook Park.

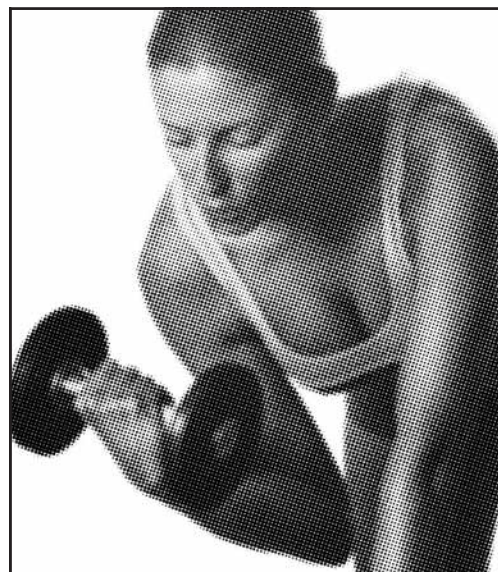
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To the editor,

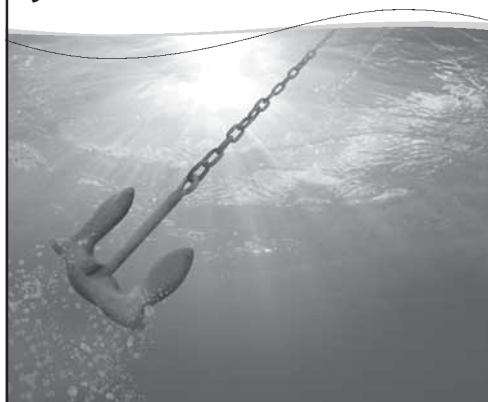
I deeply regret not having had the opportunity to get to know Bob better. He was a great asset to blogging, to Brooklyn, and to all whose lives he touched.

Claude Scales, Brooklyn Heights

Editor's note: For details about the Gaskind Memorial service, see our Civic Calendar on page 7, our longer story on page 16, or visit BrooklynPaper.com.



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BROOKLYN BUILDS

Showing off

Chan's new campaign says things are just great here in Brooklyn

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

The boroughs of Downtown Brooklyn unveiled an expensive new marketing campaign on Thursday to lure companies and residents by saying that the global financial meltdown is actually "the moment" for the borough's central core.

The "It's the Moment" campaign seeks to raise Downtown's desirability for businesses and residents and as a destination for culture. The Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental group, spent in the "low hundreds of thousands of dollars" for the direct-mail campaign, which is aimed at 1,500 elite real-estate brokers, most of them in Manhattan and, frankly, ignorant of Brooklyn's treasures, said Partnership President Joe Chan.

"It's a branding campaign that highlights [Brooklyn's] competitive advantages and the people who choose to be in Downtown Brooklyn," Chan said.

The media blitz includes testimonials from the past, present and future of Downtown, such as Fort Greene-based choreographer Mark Morris; newcomer Stephen Danhauser, whose white shoe law

firm Weil Gotshal moved some operations to Downtown last year; and Devin Harris, a guard with the supposedly Brooklyn-bound New Jersey Nets.

It's also intended to convince leery brokers and their clients that the area already has marquee names with Brooklyn addresses.

"Nobody wants to be the first [to come]," Chan said.

Harris talked about the brimming excitement for a sports team in Brooklyn.

It's also that hasn't had a professional team since 1957 when the Dodgers left, [is] yearning for us," Harris said about his squad's planned move to the so-called Atlantic Yards arena.

The delays on the Forest City Ratner project embody the real-estate crunch seen elsewhere in Brooklyn — but Chan argued that his domain makes "an incredibly compelling economic case," thanks to tax incentives for companies that move from some parts of Manhattan or outside the city.

"When it comes to cost and the economics of real estate, companies are making pragmatic decisions," Chan said.



Joe Chan launched a new marketing campaign called "Downtown Brooklyn" — "It's the Moment" — on Thursday.

The new campaign, with its focus on real people living or working in Brooklyn is a departure from last year's glitzy video narrated by

film and stage legend Ian McKellen that talked about the Downtown Brooklyn of tomorrow as a bustling 24-hour center of the city.

It keeps going up

Tallest in Brooklyn continues climb

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

Up, up and away! Here you go, architecture fans: an updated glimpse of the tallest building in Brooklyn reaching for the stars.

The 491-unit residential tower, slated to top off at 514 feet, or two feet taller than the legendary Williamsburgh Savings Bank Building, is at 111 Lawrence St., between Willowly Street and the vestigial remnant of Myrtle Avenue, in rapidly changing Downtown.

The bank building, which is at Hanson Place and Flatbush Avenue in nearby Fort Greene, has been the ceiling for Brooklyn since it was built in 1929.

But the gentlemen's agreement to keep structures below 512 feet was broken two years ago, when the developers of the City Point tower at Albee Square vowed to build a 70-story tower there (though that project is stalled due to the economic downturn).

A year earlier, some Brooklynites were agast to discover that Frank Gehry's iconic Miss



Construction workers haven't even topped out on the tower at 111 Lawrence St. in Downtown Brooklyn, a building that will be the tallest in the borough.

Brooklyn tower, the trophy skyscraper at the gateway to Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards megaproject, would rise to 620 feet and obscure some views of the bank building's clocktower. But later that year, Ratner agreed to lower its height to just below 512 feet (though, and to sound like a broken record, the project is stalled due to the economic downturn).

Despite its size, the Lawrence Street tower, developed by the Clatter Group, has been under many people's radar screens.

"There is nothing sacrosanct about the specific height of the Williamsburgh Bank building," Simon Bankoff, the executive director of the Historic Districts Council told The Brooklyn Paper, when the building was first proposed.

That said, Bankoff suggested that he would have preferred a different design.

"It's more of a case of what we want Brooklyn to look like. Do we want Brooklyn to be the mirror image of the Manhattan skyline?" he said.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

PASSOVER SEDEH: Led by Rabbi Cantor George Hirschfeld. Reservations required. \$49 (\$23 children). 6:30 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center 405 81st St. at Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge. (718) 836-3103.

READING, MICHAEL CROWLEY AND DAN GOLDMAN: Authors of the Campaign Trail "Free 2 pm. Book Court 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill. (718) 875-3677, www.bookcourt.org.

TALK, PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID LEVINTHAL: Art is spoken to Richard B. Woodward about his take on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Free. 7 pm. Powerhouse Arena 37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO. (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com.

READING, TERRA ELAN MCGOY: Author of "Pun." Free. 7:30 pm. World 126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint. (718) 383-0056, www.worldbrooklyn.com.

THEATER, "TIMES 365/247": 8 pm. See Saturday, April 4. **PASSOVER SEDEH:** \$50 (\$25 students and seniors, \$15 children). 8 pm. Congregation Sha'ar Avraham 117 Remsen St. between Henry and Clinton streets

in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 598-4882 ext. 18, www.brooklynshaham.com.

JAZZ, JESSE ELDER QUINTETS: \$20 (\$10 students). 8 pm. Bargemusic/Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO. (718) 624-2083, www.bargemusic.org.

FRI, APRIL 10

Good Friday

FILM, "CRUEL STORY OF YOUTH": Part of the Nagisa Oshima series. 5:11, 7:30, 9:30 pm. 6:30 pm, 9:15 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music 130 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene. (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org.

TOUR, VIRGIN OF SORROWS PROCESSION: Folklorist Kory Turner leads participants to respectfully participate in Italian Catholic tradition. Includes dinner. Sponsored by the Brooklyn Arts Council. Visit Web site to reserve your place. \$25. 5:30 pm. www.brooklynartscouncil.org.

STREET DANCE, "CATAPULT": 7 pm. See Saturday, April 4. **READING, JOANNA SMITH RABKOFF:** Free. 7 pm. Book Court 163 Court St. between Pacific and Dean streets in Cobble Hill. (718) 875-3677, www.bookcourt.org.

THEATER, "LA DIONE": 8 pm. See Saturday, April 4. **THEATER, "SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD":** 2 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

IN HOLLYWOOD: 8 pm. See Saturday, April 4. **CLASSICAL CONCERT:** Works by Schumann, Hummel and Brahms. \$35 (\$20 students). 8 pm. Bargemusic/Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO. (718) 624-2083, www.bargemusic.org.

SAT, APRIL 11

SALES AND MARKETS

WINTER ANTIQUES MARKET: See Saturday, April 4.

TALK, "THE FERTILE GODDESS": Curator Marielene Cuddy on the current exhibition. 100 Eastern Avenue in Prospect Heights. (718) 636-5000, www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART DISCUSSION: Artist Carlos Motta's "The Good Life." Free. 4 pm. Smack Mellon 192 Plymouth St. at Washington Street in DUMBO. (718) 624-5761, www.smackmellon.org.

SUN, APRIL 12

Easter

JAZZ, ZACK O'FARRILL QUINTETS: \$6. Noon. 1 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope. (718) 499-2622, www.puppetsjazz.com.

THEATER, "SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD": 2 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET: Works by Mozart, Pärt and Tchaikovsky. \$40 (\$35 seniors, \$20 students). 8 pm. Bargemusic/Fulton Ferry Landing, Old

Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO. (718) 624-2083, www.bargemusic.org.

TROMBONE FESTIVAL: With the Fort Greene Orchestra with Reut Reggev and Igal Fort Duo 8 pm. Max Siegel Trio 9 pm. The Gentlemen Collective 10 pm. \$10. 8 pm. Bleam Third Avenue in Gowanus. (718) 636-5000, www.brooklynmuseum.org.

DISCOVERY TOUR: See Saturday, April 4.

PERFORMANCE

STREET DANCE, "CATAPULT": 3 and 7 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

THEATER, "IN LOVE WITH MONI": 7 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

STEVE CROMITY AND HIS TRIO: Part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. \$20. 7:30 pm. 107 Hancock St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (917) 685-3508.

THEATER, "LA DIONE": 8 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

THEATER, "SHAKESPEARE IN HOLLYWOOD": 2 pm. See Saturday, April 4.

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET: Works by Mozart, Pärt and Tchaikovsky. \$40 (\$35 seniors, \$20 students). 8 pm. Bargemusic/Fulton Ferry Landing, Old

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Signs o' the times

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The Meserole Avenue boutique Fred Flare is reflecting the thoughts, musings, and inside jokes of the neighborhood with a handmade billboard featuring a different North Brooklyn message each day.

The tiny marquee in the shop's window changes every day to include messages that range from the inspirational ("Lighten up") and the indelible ("Goatie, outie, boatie"), to the personal ("Mike, you gave me the best hug, Eve") and the promotional ("Come in. You know you want to").

But all of the messages have come from the minds of neighbors and shoppers at the Greenpoint store.

"It's an expression of their personalities," said Keith Carollo, one of the founders of Fred Flare, which opened its Greenpoint store last year. "It's a fun way to hear what's on people's minds and try to share it."

Since the sign went up in early March, more than 500 thinkers, jokesters, and wonderers have submitted messages for the project, which is titled "Your Message Here."



MAN WITH A MESSAGE: Keith Carollo, co-founder of Fred Flare boutique in Greenpoint, puts up an inspirational note every day (below).



The artists who created the sign, Philadelphia's Stephen Loidolt and Shauna Alterio, choose their favorites each day and staffers at the Greenpoint shop update the sign.

All kinds of messages — from meta-of-fact quirkiness ("Your shoelace is untied") to proclamations of love ("I love my lady Lane") — have made their way onto the board, but mostly it's the really simple — nothing really complicated," he said.

Being a neighborhood character or a repeat shopper can also help get your message on the billboard, as was the case when the sign read "Happy Fourteen, Michael" in celebration of a frequent Fred Flare customer's birthday, Carollo said.

The sign will continue to show new messages until April 10, when Fred Flare will throw a closing cocktail party for Loidolt and Alterio's project.

For those that want to publicize their short, whimsical messages, but haven't been able to earn a spot on the sign, there's always Twitter.

Send your message to Fred Flare at www.fredflare.com and check back for the April 10 closing cocktail party at the store (131 Meserole Ave., at Leonard Street in Greenpoint, (718) 349-1257, 7-10 p.m.

History is re-written

Dahlgren finally gets full honors on his Ridge street

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about writing a wrong!

One day after The Brooklyn Paper started making calls about a misspelled street sign on Dahlgren Place in Bay Ridge, the city fixed the sign and promptly ended a year-long snub against the so-called father of American naval ordnance.

"Dahlgren" is a nice name, but it's not the correct one," said neighborhood historian Peter Syddahl, who pointed out that the four-block-long street, which lines the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway from Fort Hill Place to 86th Street, was named in honor of Rear Admiral John Dahlgren.

Don't know Dahlgren? Here's a primer: A Civil War naval officer (for the Union side, silly), Dahlgren designed a variety of guns and armaments for Lincoln's prized ships.

No, he never lived in Brooklyn (he was born in Philly and died near Washington, D.C.), but an innovative gun of his design was installed on a ship called the U.S.S. Brooklyn.

[His] contribution to military ordnance and American history should not be misspelled on the street bearing his name," said Syddahl, who co-authored "Bay Ridge," an essential history of the neighborhood once known



After a sharp-eyed tipster sent us the photo on the left, the city replaced incorrect signs on a Bay Ridge street that should have been named Dahlgren Place — obviously, in honor of John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren, one of America's greatest ordnance men.

as Yellow Hook (but that's a whole 'nother story').

The Department of Transportation apparently agrees. Yes, the city put up the sign — plus the extra "e" — at the corner of 86th Street in January, 2008, at the request of Bay Ridge's Community Board 10, according to District Manager Josephine Beckmann. But

when the mistake was pointed out, city workers rewrote history faster than you can say, "Is that a Dahlgren howitzer or are you just happy to see me?"

Some Ridgites were pleased with the attentiveness, but others didn't care

— after all, they'd been calling the street "Dahlgreen Place" all along.

A Bay Ridge mail carrier, who gave her name as Joan, told a Brooklyn Paper reporter that she didn't even know the proper name for the street until she started working for the post office.

"I always thought it was 'Dahlgreen,'" said the mail carrier, who continued to deliver the mail through rain, sleet and misspellings.

— with Kate Emerson

Jobless & looking

BAM employment fair attracts hundreds

By Gersh Kuntzman
and Bess Adler
The Brooklyn Paper

They are the faces of the unemployed — your neighbors, your friends, your relatives — and they came, by the hundreds, to a job fair at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Tuesday.

Most went home empty-handed. The economy, you understand.

Actually, the job fair, which was organized by a company called "New York New Jersey Employment Guide," was more for employers than for their would-be wage slaves.

"With so many companies letting go of highly qualified candidates, now is the time to hire that 'A' list employee you have been looking for!" stated the promotional material for the job fair, which drew such companies as T-Mobile, the Center for Allied Health and Nursing, St. Joseph's College, the Army National Guard, HealthPlus and New York Life.

There was even (perhaps this was appropriate) a pawn broker looking to hire new

workers.

"We are hiring for all positions," read Gem Pawn Brokers' posting on Craigslist before the job fair. The company billed itself, proudly, as "New York's largest pawn broker."

At least one possible employer said the endless procession of job-seekers was a bit depressing.

"I am seeing a lot of people



ple here that have been looking for jobs for a long time," said Ed Schwartz, the director of the Manhattan Institute, which set up a table in the BAM Cafe.

Here's what potential employees had to say:



"I'm looking for anything in the business field."

— Andrea Cojoc, 26, Sunset Park, unemployed for two months.



"I am looking for pretty much anything at this job fair."

— Andy Holloway, 35, East New York, unemployed since September.



"I'm looking for a job in construction or electrical work, but all they have here are health care jobs. So I signed up for some health care training."

— Lamech Ben-Israel, 32, Bushwick, unemployed for one year.



"I am looking for pretty much everything. I came to the fair looking for a home health care job."

— Michelle Reid, 23, Queens, unemployed for six months.



"I was interested in a jeweler position, and I also signed up for information on the Army Reserve. I tried years ago to join the Reserve, but I didn't make it."

— Eldon Bourne, 29, Kensington, unemployed since January.

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